I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims of the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for managing an image of an object stored in a database, the method comprising the steps of:

evaluating the image based on reduction criteria which are independent of image capture; and

reducing a storage size of the image from a base level to at least one secondary level based on the reduction criteria wherein each secondary level is smaller in storage size than the base level.

2.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of repeating the step of reducing to reduce the storage size of the image from one secondary level to another secondary level based on the reduction criteria.

3.   (Original)   The method of claim 2, wherein the step of repeating occurs after expiration of a predetermined duration.

4.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the image is of a document.

5.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the base level is a compressed format and each secondary level has a different Q-table than the base level.

6.   (Original)   The method of claim 5, wherein the compressed format is a JPEG baseline

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compression format.

7.   (Original)   The method of claim 5, wherein the compressed format is a JPEG 2000 compression format.

8.   (Original)   The method of claim 5, wherein the at least one secondary level includes at least two secondary levels, each secondary level having a different Q-table than every other secondary level.

9.   (Original)   The method of claim 8, wherein a first secondary level exhibits lower image quality compared to the base level; and a second secondary level exhibits lower image quality compared to the first secondary level.

10.   (Original)   The method of claim 9, wherein the at least two secondary levels includes at least three secondary levels; and a third secondary level exhibits lower image quality compared to the second secondary level.

11.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the image includes a plurality of images.

12.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of reducing includes compressing the image.

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13.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the image is in a compressed format and

the step of reducing includes entropy decoding the image, changing quantized

coefficients and quantization tables, and entropy recoding the image.

14.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein an initial step of reducing includes

deleting a portion of the image.

15.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the reduction criteria includes at least one

of: available data storage, time since object creation, time since object imaging, prior size

reduction, prior access by user, object value, user account type, volume of objects per

user account, user total account value, a user selection, user fees paid, user account

history, suspicious activity and object part imaged.

16.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of maintaining a copy

of image at the base level.

17.   (Original)   The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of replacing the

image at the secondary level with a copy of the image at the base level when a user

requests access to the copy of the image at the base level.

18.   (Original)   The method of claim 17, wherein the user includes an indication of the

duration that the base level will be required when the user requests the copy of the image

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at the base level.

19.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein a final step of reducing includes purging the image.

20.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of maintaining statistical data for comparison with the reduction criteria.

21.   (Original)   A method of managing storage size of an image of an object, wherein the image is accessed by a user, the method comprising the steps of:

        reducing the storage size of the image based on reduction criteria to create a size-reduced version;

        allowing user access to the size-reduced version for a predetermined duration; and

        repeating the steps of reducing and allowing after expiration of the predetermined duration.

22.   (Original)   The method of claim 21, wherein the step of reducing includes compressing the image.

23.   (Original)   The method of claim 21, wherein the image is in a compressed format and the step of reducing includes achieving more compression.

24.   (Original)   The method of claim 23, wherein the step of reducing includes entropy decoding the image, changing quantized coefficients and quantization tables, and entropy recoding the image.

25.   (Original)   The method of claim 21, wherein an initial step of reducing includes deleting a portion of the image.

26.   (Original)   The method of claim 21, wherein the reduction criteria includes at least one of: available data storage, time since object creation, time since object imaging, prior size-reduction, prior access by user, object value, user account type, volume of objects per user account, user total account value, user selections, user fees paid, user account history, suspicious activity and object side imaged.

27.   (Original)   The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of maintaining a substantially lossless quality version of the image.

28.   (Original)   The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of allowing the user to access the substantially lossless quality version upon request.

29.   (Original)   The method of claim 21, wherein a final step of reducing includes purging the image.

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30.   (Currently Amended) A system for managing storage size of an image of an object where
the image is accessed by a user online, the system comprising:

a size-reduction evaluator to periodically evaluate whether the image is subject to
a size reduction based on size-reduction criteria which are independent of image capture;
and

a size reducer to reduce the size of the image based on instructions from the size-
reduction evaluator.

31.   (Original)   The system of claim 30, further comprising a designator to assign the
image a designation indicative of the status of the image based on the size-reduction
criteria.

32.   (Original)   The system of claim 31, wherein the size-reduction criteria includes at
least one of: prior size-reduction, prior access by user, object value, user account type,
volume of objects in user account, user total account value, a user selection, user fee paid,
user account history and object side imaged.

33.   (Original)   The system of claim 32, wherein the size-reduction criteria includes real-
time factors including at least one of: available data storage, suspicious activity, time
since object creation and time since object imaging.

34.   (Original)   The system of claim 30, further comprising a storage module to save a

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substantially lossless quality version of the image.

35.   (Original)   The system of claim 30, wherein the size-reduction evaluator determines

whether to leave the image alone, reduce the storage size of the image or purge the

image.

36.   (Original)   The system of claim 30, wherein a first activation of the size reducer

purges an image portion of the image.

37.   (Original)   The system of claim 30, wherein the image is in a compressed format and

the size reducer is adapted to decode the image, change a dynamic range scaling of the

image, and recode the image.

38.   (Original)   The system of claim 30, wherein the size-reduction evaluator determines a

reduction/purging rule to be followed by the size reducer based on the reduction criteria.

39.   (Currently Amended)   A system for managing storage size of an image of an

object, wherein the image is accessed by a user, the system comprising:

means for evaluating the image based on reduction criteria which are independent

of image capture to determine whether to reduce the data storage size of the image, leave

the image alone or purge the image; and

means for reducing the data storage size of the image based on the results of the

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means for evaluating.

40.   (Cancelled)

41.   (New)   A program product stored on a computer readable medium for managing a

size of a stored image that is accessible to a user, the computer readable medium

comprising program code for performing the following steps:

evaluating the image based on reduction criteria which are independent of image

capture to determine whether to reduce the data storage size of the image, leave the image

alone or purge the image; and

reducing the data storage size of the image based on the results of the evaluating.

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